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Gilbert Announces National Child Passenger Safety Week February 9-15

(LANSING) – Properly using a safety restraint seat while traveling is one of the most important things you can do to protect your child, state Senator Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, commented in anticipation of National Child Passenger Safety Week February 9-15.

“Michigan law requires children under age four to be in an approved child safety seat, regardless of the seating position,” Gilbert, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, said. “National Child Passenger Safety Week is an opportune time to remind parents that they must take the appropriate safety precautions to ensure their child is as safe as possible when traveling by vehicle.”

The number one cause of accidental death for children age 0-15 in Michigan is motor vehicle crashes, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. In 2001, 90 children age 0-15 died and 9,830 were injured in Michigan traffic crashes.

As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, Senator Gilbert is reminding parents and child-care providers to follow four steps to help provide for the safety of children:

- Rear-face infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Forward-face toddler seats in the back seat from age one to about four and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Booster seats in the back seat from about age four and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless the child is at least 4’9”.
- Safety belts at age eight or older or taller than 4’9”. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a national effort designed to draw attention to ways to keep young passengers safe in motor vehicles. For more information about child passenger safety, go to www.nhtsa.dot.gov.